

March 10, 2022

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 5293 (*With Amendment*): An Act Prohibiting the Use of Wild or Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I care about animals and I vote! An Act Prohibiting the Use of Wild or Exotic Animals in Traveling Animal Acts (HB 5293) is a commonsense proposal that will promote animal welfare and protect public safety by prohibiting use of certain animals who are commonly used in circus traveling shows - camels, bears, elephants, lions, tigers etc. This bill would provide exemptions for legitimate educational activities.

Wild animals in circuses and other traveling shows are trained with pain and the fear of punishment. They're caged and chained in trucks and trailers, forced to endure months of grueling travel, bullied to perform silly tricks, and are denied everything that is natural and important to them. There is ample documentation and evidence that the suffering these animals endure is real and systemic throughout the industry, and that existing laws do not sufficiently protect them. Rhode Island, California, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and 161 jurisdictions across the U.S., including Stamford and Bridgeport, have passed restrictions on wild animal acts. In 2017, Ringling Bros. ended 146 years of coercive and inherently inhumane wild animal acts.

Please amend line 33 by removing "*includes any animal that is not domesticated*" because, in other states, some exhibitors have been trying use this exact same phrase to create a loophole that circumvents legislative intent.

Respectfully Submitted,
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